



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
Office of Information Policy  
*Suite 11050*  
*1425 New York Avenue, NW*  
*Washington, DC 20530-0001*

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*Telephone: (202) 514-3642*

June 2, 2017

Mr. Austin R. Evers  
American Oversight  
Suite B255  
1030 15<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
[foia@americanoversight.org](mailto:foia@americanoversight.org)

Re: DOJ-2017-004281 (OIP)  
VRB:DRH:MWM

Dear Mr. Evers:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act request received in this Office on May 23, 2017, seeking records concerning a data call from the Office of Government Ethics regarding ethics waivers. Your request was originally directed to the FOIA/PA Mail Referral Unit (MRU), Justice Management Division, who forwarded it to this Office. The MRU tracking number associated with this request is EMRUFOIA052217-3. This response is made on behalf of the Office of Information Policy.

Your request has been received by the Office of Information Policy of the United States Department of Justice, which processes Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act (PA) requests for records it maintains as well as records maintained by the Offices of the Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General, Associate Attorney General, Public Affairs, Legislative Affairs, and Legal Policy. OIP also adjudicates administrative appeals of denials of FOIA/PA requests made to the Department. This Office maintains the case files for the initial requests and administrative appeals it processes.

Please be advised that the FOIA provides a right of access to federal agency records that exist and can be located in federal agency files. The FOIA does not require agencies to conduct research for you, to analyze data, to answer questions, or to create new records in response to a FOIA request. Moreover, the FOIA does not apply to records that are maintained by states, counties, or cities, or by the legislative or judicial branches of the government.

For your information, the FOIA operation for both the Department of Justice and the federal government is decentralized and each Department component and federal entity maintains and handles FOIA requests for its own records. Accordingly, you need to direct your letter to the office(s) you believe have records pertaining to the subject of your request. Additional information regarding the federal government's administration of the FOIA, including a listing of FOIA contact information, is available at [www.foia.gov](http://www.foia.gov). Based on the information you have provided, you may want to direct your request to the Justice Management Division as the Department component most likely to maintain the records you are seeking.

You may contact our FOIA Public Liaison at the telephone number listed above for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; email at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll-free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you are not satisfied with my response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy, United States Department of Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIAonline portal at <https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within ninety days of the date of my response to your request. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Vanessa R. Brinkmann", with a small "BR" monogram at the end.

Vanessa R. Brinkmann  
Senior Counsel